Kept Shiny

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Fall Cleaning Checklist

This covers 30 tasks across 5 zones, about 8 h 15 min total, with Kitchen the longest at 1 h 55 min. Start at the entryway and work zone by zone.

Entryway and Mudroom — 1 h 10

- [ ] **Clear out summer gear** — 20 min
  Sort shoes, sandals, and outdoor toys into storage bins or donation piles.
- [ ] **Wash entry mats and rugs** — 15 min
  Shake off debris outside, then launder or hose down according to the care label.
- [ ] **Wipe down coat hooks and shelves** — 10 min
  Dust with a microfiber cloth, then wipe with a dish soap and water solution.
- [ ] **Clean entry door glass** — 5 min
  Spray with white vinegar diluted in water and wipe dry with a lint-free cloth.
- [ ] **Sweep and mop entry flooring** — 10 min
  Sweep debris first, then mop with a dish soap and warm water solution.
- [ ] **Inspect and clean light fixtures** — 10 min
  Turn off power, remove the cover if possible, and wipe with a damp microfiber cloth.
  > Let fixtures cool completely before touching if recently used.

Living and Family Rooms — 1 h 45

- [ ] **Dust ceiling fans and vents** — 15 min
  Use an extendable duster or a damp cloth on a step stool to catch falling dust.
- [ ] **Vacuum upholstery and cushions** — 20 min
  Use the upholstery attachment and flip cushions to vacuum both sides.
- [ ] **Clean windows inside and out** — 25 min
  Spray glass with a vinegar and water solution and wipe with a microfiber cloth or squeegee.
- [ ] **Dust and wipe wood furniture** — 15 min
  Dust with a dry microfiber cloth, then wipe with a wood-safe cleaner if needed.
  > Avoid vinegar or lemon-based cleaners on finished wood since acids can dull the surface.
- [ ] **Wipe down electronics** — 10 min
  Clean TV and computer screens with a dry microfiber cloth, slightly dampened only if necessary.
  > Never spray liquid directly onto a screen.
- [ ] **Vacuum carpets and rugs** — 20 min
  Go over high-traffic areas twice and use a crevice tool along the baseboards.

Kitchen — 1 h 55

- [ ] **Clean inside the refrigerator** — 30 min
  Remove shelves and drawers, wash with dish soap and warm water, then dry before replacing.
- [ ] **Degrease the stovetop and oven hood filter** — 25 min
  Soak filters in hot water with dish soap, then scrub and rinse thoroughly.
- [ ] **Disinfect countertops** — 15 min
  Wipe with dish soap and water, rinse, then disinfect with a diluted oxygen bleach solution if needed.
  > Rinse countertops before applying a different cleaner and never mix bleach with other cleaning products.
- [ ] **Clean stone countertops carefully** — 10 min
  Use a pH-neutral cleaner made for natural stone instead of vinegar or lemon juice.
  > Acidic cleaners etch marble and granite surfaces permanently.
- [ ] **Descale the faucet and sink** — 20 min
  Soak a cloth in vinegar, wrap it around the faucet head, and let it sit for 15 minutes before wiping.
- [ ] **Mop the kitchen floor** — 15 min
  Sweep first, then mop with a dish soap solution suited to your flooring type.

Bedrooms and Closets — 1 h 45

- [ ] **Rotate and wash bedding** — 20 min
  Swap lightweight summer sheets for heavier bedding and launder everything before storing or using.
- [ ] **Vacuum mattress surfaces** — 15 min
  Use the upholstery attachment to remove dust and debris from both sides if possible.
- [ ] **Sort seasonal clothing** — 30 min
  Pack away summer clothes in bins and bring winter clothing within easy reach.
- [ ] **Dust closet shelves and rods** — 10 min
  Wipe with a dry microfiber cloth, then a damp cloth for stubborn dust buildup.
- [ ] **Clean bedroom windows and sills** — 15 min
  Wipe sills with dish soap and water, then clean glass with a vinegar solution.
- [ ] **Vacuum and spot-clean carpets** — 15 min
  Vacuum thoroughly and treat any visible stains with a carpet-safe cleaner.

Bathrooms — 1 h 40

- [ ] **Scrub tile and grout** — 20 min
  Apply a vinegar and water solution, let sit for 10 minutes, then scrub with a brush.
- [ ] **Disinfect toilet and surrounding area** — 15 min
  Clean with dish soap and water first, rinse, then disinfect with a diluted oxygen bleach solution.
  > Rinse away the first cleaner completely before applying bleach solution.
- [ ] **Clean mirrors and glass shower doors** — 10 min
  Spray with a vinegar and water solution and wipe dry with a microfiber cloth.
- [ ] **Clear shower drain and showerhead** — 30 min
  Soak the showerhead in a vinegar solution for 30 minutes to dissolve mineral buildup.
- [ ] **Check for mold in damp corners** — 15 min
  Scrub visible mold spots with a diluted oxygen bleach solution and ventilate the room.
  > Open a window or run the exhaust fan while cleaning to avoid inhaling fumes.
- [ ] **Mop bathroom flooring** — 10 min
  Sweep up hair and debris first, then mop with a dish soap and warm water solution.